



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE MUSEUM

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

MARK A. TULLOS, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**MEETING MINUTES
COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 8, 2015, 1:00 P.M., OLD U.S. MINT, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

The meeting of the Collections Committee of the Louisiana State Museum Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Dr. William J. Perret at 1:00 p.m. at the Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans.

Members Present: William J. Perret, M.D., Chairman
Myrna Bergeron, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Pipes Guice
Aleta Leckelt
Anne F. Redd
Michael M. Davis, Ex Officio

Also Present: E. Tiffany Adler, Louisiana Museum Foundation
Tamara Carboni, Friends of the Cabildo

PROPOSED PURCHASE RATIFICATIONS

Dr. Perret moved that the proposed purchase ratifications before the Committee which were read as attached hereto, be approved. Unanimously approved.

PROPOSED DONATIONS TO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Donation by Robert J. Cangelosi, 8 photographs, 2 Invitations (1 with admit cards), 2 pin/pendants. Presentation by Costumes and Textiles Curator Wayne Phillips regarding the donor's long standing support to both the Museum and the Mardi Gras Collections therein. Mr. Cangelosi is a collector of Mardi Gras memorabilia and a member of the Krewe of Bacchus for the past many years. Therefore his ongoing donation of personally designed pins and invitations carries forward for another year. Additionally, he has offered 8 photographs of various Mardi Gras Krewe members.

Donation by Mr. George K. Crozer, V, of a Scroll presented to Veva Miller, Queen of the Mistick Krewe of Comus 1939.

Donation by Mr. Jerry Gilley, a certain lot of medallions, invitations, awards, and posters.

Donation by Mr. Harry B. Kelleher, Jr., of a scrapbook belonging to the donor's Father, Rex, King of Carnival, 1966.

Donation by Mrs. Veva Wood Mahoney, of miscellaneous Krewe photographs and a pendant on chain, all of which connect to pieces currently held in our Mardi Gras Collections.

Donation of Mr. J. Bruce Orgeron of 12 costume sketches, executed by the donor, for the 2015 Lords of Leather Ball. Mr. Orgeron is a highly respected costume designer and long standing participant in gay carnival in New Orleans. The Museum maintains the archive of the Lords of Leather and wishes to continue to expand its holdings in this regard.

Donation of Mr. Jason Strada, 2 parade bulletins, Krewe of Proteus and Krewe of Orpheus, published in the New Orleans Advocate Newspaper on February 16, 2015.

Donation of Optomen Productions, souvenir silk ribbon mourning the death of Zachary Taylor, United States President, July 9, 1850. The donor purchased the item for use in an episode of “Mysteries at the Museum” and has offered the ribbon to the Museum in gratitude for its assistance in the production of their program.

Donation of Rick Blount, assorted Antoine’s menus, wine list, stationery, and cookbook. A discussion was held regarding the importance of building our collections in the area of local restaurants of note, and it was proposed that a plan to contact area restaurants for their donations of similar memorabilia would be developed.

Donation of William and Lanelle Gundlach, III, menu from Crescent City Steakhouse, and Ralph’s on the Park dessert and drink menu, a reproduction of their original 1934 menu. Both menus are favorable additions to the Culinary Collections in the Historical Center.

Donation of George Wurz, scrapbook. Said scrapbook was purchased by donor from an estate sale. The scrapbook reflects the activities of “The Women’s Club”, first arising in the Post-Civil War period of late 1860s, which ultimately led to the formation of the Women’s Club in New Orleans in 1884. This document represents women’s history, philanthropy work, and community connectivity.

Donation of Tom Stagg, lot of 14 pieces of sheet music. Mr. Stagg, a music promoter for traditional New Orleans musicians and founder of NOLA Records, and producer of 504 Records, an existing record label. In this group of sheet music, many songs were recorded, published and sold by Louisianians, have visually appealing covers, will be great additions to the Music Collections and, could lend themselves to future exhibitions.

Donation of John Cowan, invitation/program for the dedication of the Judah P. Benjamin Monument in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. This program will complement the Museum’s numerous Judah P. Benjamin artifacts.

Donation of Woody Riche, black ink on paper, view of Cabildo from corner of St. Peter and Chartres Streets by C. M. Luria, calling card of Corrina M. Luria.

Donation of Beau Bassich, 5 photographs taken in Patterson, Louisiana; and 1 framed photograph of J.R. Wedell including correspondence from donor to J. R. Wedell, and 2 pieces of fabric from the #44. These add to the existing artifacts from the Patterson area.

Donation of Mary Jane and Gus Verstynen, booklet, “Condensed Souvenir History Booklet of New Orleans for the Tourist”, issued by the Gray Lines-Yellow Lines Guides of Toye Brothers Yellow Cab Company in New Orleans.

Dr. Perret moved that all above proposed donations to the Permanent Collection, which were read and discussed as attached hereto, be approved. Unanimously approved.

PROPOSED DONATIONS TO THE STUDY COLLECTION

Donation of Tom Stagg, reproduction sheet music “Brown Skin (Who You Are)” published by Dugin Piano Company, New Orleans, 1915; and reproduction sheet music (2 copies) “Lou-easy-an-ia”, written by Joe Darensbourg.

Jeffrey Guice moved that these proposed donations to the Study Collection, which were read as attached, be approved. Unanimously approved.

PROPOSED INCOMING LOANS

Lender Wayne Phillips, pearl necklace, ca. 1970 and belonging to donor’s Mother, for use in “From the Big Apple to the Big Easy” exhibition, March 21, 2015 through December 4, 2016.

Lender Pictures of the Year International, Reynolds Journalism Institute, Rick Shaw, Director, 50 award winning framed photographs, for use in Capitol Park Museum “Pictures of the Year International” exhibition, April 12, 2015 through May 31, 2015.

Lender Yvette Girouard, a certain lot of sports memorabilia attributable to Yvette Girouard, for exhibition in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Museum in Natchitoches, Louisiana, April 13, 2015 through July 30, 2016.

Jeffrey Guice moved that these proposed incoming loans, which were read as attached hereto, be approved. Unanimously approved.

PROPOSED OUTGOING LOANS

Borrowers Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June through September 2015
 Crystal Bridges Museum, October 2015 through January 2016
 Pinacoteca, February through May 2016

“Grand Plaza of Mexico City During the Occupation of Mexico City, September 15, 1846” by Antonio Gualdi, oil on canvas for use in exhibition “From Tierra Del Fuego To The Arctic: Landscape Painting in the Americas”.

Borrower Mingei International Museum, San Diego, California, drake and hen decoys; Louisiana Acadian blanket (ca. 1880); jardinière “Oak and Spanish Moss” 1929 (Newcomb pottery).

Borrower Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, New Jersey, oil on canvas “The Coachman” att. to Theodore Sidney Moise; oil painting “Victor Pierson & Theodore S. Moise”, for use in exhibit “From Dawn’s Early Light: Jewish Contributions to American Culture from the Nation’s Founding to the Civil War”, January 1, 2016 through June 20, 2016. Note Pierson painting will be removed from Treasurer’s Office for fine art shipment in December 2015.

Anne Redd moved, seconded by Jeffrey Guice that these proposed outgoing loans, which were read as attached, be approved. Unanimously approved.

PROPOSED INCOMING LOAN EXTENSIONS

Lender Elizabeth Huchet de Kernion LeConey, miscellaneous home furnishings, and personal holdings, including watercolors, medals, dice shakers, brass lock and key, crucifix, clothing, etc. for use in depicting a typical 1850s residence, 1850 House, Jackson Square, July 1, 1997 through July 1, 2018.

Lender Louisiana Golf Association, large silver trophy in shape of Louisiana State Capitol Building, for use in Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Museum in Natchitoches, Louisiana, May 2005 through May 2018.

Lender Jim Bateman, western trousers, belt buckle (incl. belt), one brown cowboy boot belonging to Estate of Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, for use in Louisiana Music Exhibit at the Old U.S. Mint, New Orleans Louisiana, June 21, 2006 through June 21, 2018 or until Estate of Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown is settled.

Aleta Leckelt moved, seconded by Jeffrey Guice that these proposed incoming loan extensions, which were read as attached, be approved. Unanimously approved.

PROPOSED OUTGOING LOAN EXTENSIONS

Borrower Louisiana’s Old State Capitol, bust of Andrew Jackson att. to William Rush; bust of Napoleon on pedestal base, for use in exhibition “The Mystery of the Missing Statue”, June 15, 2009 through June 15, 2018 (ongoing).

Dr. Perret moved that both busts, which were read as attached, be approved. Unanimously approved.

Borrower John Neely Kennedy, Louisiana State Treasurer, 12 oil on canvas paintings and one bronze, described as attached, for the purpose of furnishing public space in the Treasurer’s Office, April 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016.

Borrower John Neely Kennedy further requests loan of oil on canvas “S.S. Louisiana” or “Louisiana” by Antonio N.G. Jacobsen, for the purpose of furnishing public space in the Treasurer’s Office, April 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016.

After discussion in which concerns over placing requested paintings over copier machine, Anne Redd moved that request for an additional painting be denied, Jeff Guice seconded, unanimously denied.

A discussion ensued regarding the loan of paintings to Louisiana State office buildings. Many issues were raised including highly questionable lighting and humidity liability in areas of the Treasurer's Office, appropriateness of the existing placement of some of these paintings, consideration of acceptable window treatments where these portraits are susceptible to undue light exposure, the use of reproductions for such loans, and the reasons why we have sent paintings out for "wall décor" where it simply may or may not belong. The Committee feels the Museum should reconsider strongly in all of these areas. Therefore it was proposed that Museum Curator of Visual Arts, Dr. Richard (Tony) Lewis, should conduct an investigation into the practices and enforcement of conducting loans of valuable art to Louisiana State offices and perhaps re-establish less liberal disposition and care requirements for the benefit of these irreplaceable artifacts.

Upon motion of Anne Redd, seconded by Jeffrey Guice, the request of the outgoing loan extension of 12 oil on canvas paintings and one bronze, by John Neely Kennedy to furnish office space in the Louisiana Office of State Treasurer's Office, April 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016 is hereby deferred until acceptable conclusions to the above raised questions can be reached.

NEW BUSINESS

Borrower Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain, undisclosed selection of paintings, for display in his office while Louisiana Legislature is in session.

Anne Redd moved, seconded by Jeffrey Guice, that Commissioner Strain's request be denied and future requests be made in further advance of legislative session.

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion continued on the ownership of an automobile, a 1917 Cadillac touring model now currently residing at the Louisiana National Guard Museum at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans. While there is much discrepancy regarding its ownership on the part of Director of Museum & Archives at Jackson Barracks, the Louisiana State Museum is quite satisfied with the automobile remaining at their site. Jackson Barracks personnel have fully, authentically restored the car and maintain it to the satisfaction of the Museum. It was suggested that an Attorney General Opinion be solicited to bring a mutually acceptable ownership conclusion, but that such an opinion may or may not be honored by the Department of the Army and Air Force, who operate the Museum in Jackson Barracks. The matter remains in question as well as whether or not an Opinion would be solicited from the Office of the Attorney General. Mike Davis requested that lawyer David Dalia give an opinion on ownership of car based on paperwork. Mr. Dalia is familiar with the State Museum's institutional history and is currently assisting the museum in another matter. Supporting documentation regarding this automobile is attached to this report.

Meeting adjourned.